



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

SUBURBAN CHICAGO MAN FOUND GUILTY OF LYING TO CONCEAL MEMBERSHIP IN VIOLENT POLITICAL GROUP

Man attempted to fraudulently obtain U.S. citizenship

CHICAGO—A federal jury found a Pakistani native guilty Monday of lying about his background in an attempt to obtain U.S. citizenship, including hiding the fact that he was a member of a violent political group in Pakistan.

The jury deliberated about four hours before finding Mohammad Azam Hussain, 37, of Des Plaines, Ill., guilty on 11 criminal counts: five counts of making false statements on his application for U.S. citizenship in 2003; four counts of making false statements to government officials; and two counts of falsely claiming U.S. citizenship.

The conviction is the result of an investigation by the Chicago offices of the FBI and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Matthew Schneider and Jake Ryan of the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Illinois. Hussain faces a possible prison sentence of up to 10 years for the crimes, and ICE will seek to deport him upon completion of his prison sentence. A sentencing date has not been set.

"We will not allow this country's generosity to be abused by those who try to manipulate the legal immigration system," said Special Agent-in-Charge Elissa Brown, who leads ICE Chicago investigations. "Too often, lies are used in an attempt to conceal something sinister in a person's background."

Prosecutors charged that Hussain concealed he had held a midlevel position in the Haqiqi faction of the Mohajir Quami Movement (MQM) in Pakistan. After the faction split from the MQM in the early 1990s, the two groups clashed. Federal prosecutors said in court that the Haqiqi faction was responsible for bombings and murders. Hussain admitted to federal agents that he received training in the use of firearms and regularly carried a handgun, and on occasion an AK-47.

Hussain also admitted to investigators that he was close to the founder and leader of the Haqiqi faction, Afaq Ahmad, who was arrested in Pakistan last year.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.